

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 12, 14-16, and 18-21 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-5 and 7-9 having been amended and Claim 13 having been canceled by way of the present Amendment. Claims 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, and 22-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants request the entry of the amendment set forth herein as they are believed to place the application into condition for allowance.

Claims 12, 14-16, and 18-21 have been allowed.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koji (JP 2001-038272) in view of Tateyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,919,520) and Stash et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,001,425). Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the obviousness rejection thereof moot.

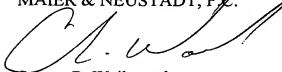
Claims 1-5 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Official Action suggests changing “nozzle” on line 1 of the claims to “device,” which was indicated as overcoming the indefiniteness rejection. Claims 1-5 and 7-9 have been amended as suggested, and therefore Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are in condition for allowance.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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